

## SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

APRIL 11, 2007

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Room C of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad (7:30 p.m.), Hawkins, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments

III. NEW BUSINESS

## 1. Area Agency Contributions (Sec.F, Page 140)

Kevin Grunwald, Director of Social Services, reviewed the area agencies' request for contributions. The amount listed in the budget is the amount requested by the agency. Each agency completed an application to the Town, which shows the number of clients they serve, the percentage of Mansfield residents and their most recent audit. The only recipient who did not do so this year was Windham Area No Freeze, although the department has been in touch with them numerous times this year.

Mr. Grunwald also reviewed the Social Service budget (Sec. F, Page 130) with the Council. The budget includes a quarter position for a youth counselor, which was in the budget last year but not funded. The inclusion of this position will facilitate the staffing of evening events.

Mr. Grunwald noted that the Senior Center is at full capacity and the Town will need to look at alternatives for the future. The Senior Sparks publication is mailed to 566 subscribers and offered free many places in town.

Mr. Clouette suggested that in the future the first item of the write-up under Major Initiatives should read: Coordinated psychiatric assistance with the Mansfield Board of Education staff and students. (FLAG)

## 2. Library (Sec. F, Page 136)

Louise Bailey, Library Director, summarized the library budget noting that circulation remains stable and the long range- planning endeavor has been completed. The two major priorities for the library are life long learning and current topics and titles. She noted that 25% of clients are from other towns.

The Director commented that on Page 137 it looks like there are a total of 4 librarians. One of these is shared with the schools so the correct number should be 3.5. (FLAG)

Mr. Hawkins complimented Ms. Bailey on the library website calling it the most improved website in town.

### 3. Community Development (Sec. F, Page 143)

Greg Padick, Director of Planning, outlined the Community Development budget, which includes the Planning office, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetland Agency. He noted no major changes and added that the department is making much more use of the Town website as a way to get information to the public.

Mayor Paterson commended Mr. Padick on his work for the Town especially in his many dealings with the University. She stated that Mr. Padick brings a professional level of expertise to our interactions with UConn that is beneficial for both.

Ms. Koehn requested, through Mr. Clouette that the functions of the Aquifer Protection Agency be spelled out in the description. (FLAG)

### 4. Building Maintenance (Sec. F Page 124)

Bill Hammond, Director of Maintenance, discussed some of the major components of his budget. The two main issues are energy and repairs and maintenance. Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, presented the results of the Siemens consult. Using their recommendations and the suggestions from an outside engineering firm Mr. Smith has signed a contract to complete only projects that will have a quick payback period. The other initiatives will be addressed as savings are realized. They feel that many of these additional projects can be done less expensively in-house.

Mayor Paterson complimented Mr. Hammond for all he has done to use and promote the use of "green" products.

Mr. Hammond also commented that he has reviewed the plan for the Downtown Partnership development and has determined that, except for the certification process, which is very expensive, the project meets the highest environmentally sound standards.

Following a discussion regarding fire alarms, Mr. Hawkins suggested that staff research the possibility of alarms going directly to the 911 facility in Tolland. The Town already pays them to dispatch our ambulance and fire vehicles. (FLAG)

### 5. Recreation (Sec. F, Page 138) (Sec. N, Page 185)

Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that the greatest challenge the Community Center faces is the balancing of community use with membership use. Initially promoted as being self-sufficient the Center now supports non-member activity and is changing from a business model to a community model.

Council members requested that the department capture quantitatively the times the community room is used for community meetings and events. (FLAG) This information would be helpful in explaining the budget to the voters. Mayor Paterson noted that experience has taught us that the building is more of a community center than initially thought. She suggested that the activities of the town that are supported in this budget be itemized.

Mr. Vincente distributed graphs showing that as a percentage of the overall budget of the Town, the Parks and Recreation budget has not increased since 1990. He also commented

that the price of some of the programs has crept up to the point that usage is dropping off slightly.

Mr. Hawkins noted that it is not the amount of the subsidy that will be the problem but the way it is presented to the public. Staff will come up with wording that shows the community use of the facility. (FLAG)

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Manager reminded members of the two information sessions.

Staff will begin to look at ways to cut the budget.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:30 p.m. by Ms. Blair, seconded by Mr. Paulhus and passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk